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reflection rather than the mutually perpendicular encoder wheels shown in the embodiment shown in Figs. 6a-6b

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1. A pointing device capable of changing the appearance of a display,
comprising:
 - 5 a housing having a cover and a base;
 - a single spool cable receiver rotatably mounted to the housing;
 - a cable having a first end and a second end with the second end mounted to the cable receiver,
wherein the pointing device has a first mode with a first portion of the cable having a first length external to the pointing device and a second portion of the cable wound
10 around the cable receiver; and a second mode with the first portion of the cable having a second length external to the pointing device less than the first length.

2. The pointing device of claim 1, wherein the pointing device has a third mode with a third portion of the cable having a third length external to the pointing device less than the first length and greater than the second length.

3. The pointing device of claim 1, further comprising a switch which is activated
to generate a pointing signal to the display.

- 20 4. The pointing device of claim 3, further comprising a switch which is capacitively coupled to the cable receiver

5. The pointing device of claim 1, further comprising a tracking device which generates signals based on movement of the pointing device, the signals controlling
25 the movement of a reference on the display.

6. The pointing device of claim 5, further comprising a switch which is activated to generate a pointing signal to the display.

- 30 7. The pointing device of claim 5, wherein the tracking device is mounted to the cable receiver.

8. The pointing device of claim 7, further comprising:
a reference stop, and
a detent,

5 wherein the detent aligns the cable receiver to the housing.

- Sub a3* 9. ~~The pointing device of claim 5, wherein the tracking device further comprises an optical sensor for optically monitoring movement of the pointing device.~~

- 10 10. The pointing device of claim 1, further comprising:
a reference stop, and
a detent,

wherein the detent aligns the cable receiver to the housing.

- 15 11. The pointing device of claim 1, wherein the cable is shielded.

- Sub a4* 12. ~~The pointing device of claim 1, wherein the cover further comprises a lid, wherein the lid is disposed in an open position when the cable is being wound around the cable receiver and the lid is disposed in a closed position when covering the cable receiver.~~

- 20 13. The pointing device of claim 1, further comprising:
a rotatable disk affixed to the cable receiver,
wherein the cover further comprises an opening in the cover and the rotatable disk is disposed within the opening in the cover;

25 wherein the rotatable disk has a rotatable disk top further comprising:

a depression formed in the exterior surface of the rotatable disk top, the depression having a diameter; and

30 an aperture within the depression less than the diameter of the depression.

14. ~~The pointing device of claim 1, further comprising:~~
~~a connector attached to the cable at the first end, and~~
~~a connector receiver formed in the housing which accepts the connector.~~

- 5 15. The pointing device of claim 1, further comprising
a rotary connector coupling ~~the cable to the tracking device.~~

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16. ~~The pointing device of claim 1, further comprising:~~
~~a rotatable control circuit mounted to the cable receiver for producing position~~
10 ~~signals in response to movement of the housing; and~~
~~a tracking mechanism disposed in the housing coupled to the rotatable control~~
~~circuit for generating signals in response to movement of the housing.~~

- 15 17. The pointing device of claim 16, further comprising:
a reference stop, and
a detent,
wherein the detent aligns the cable receiver to the base.

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20 18. ~~The pointing device of claim 16, wherein the rotatable control circuit further~~
comprises:
first and second transducers for receiving user commands indicating
movement of the housing and producing first and second position signals in response
thereto.

- 25 19. The pointing device of claim 18, wherein the tracking mechanism further
comprises: a first wheel with a polygonal outer surface rotatably mounted relative
to the housing; and
a second wheel rotatably mounted relative to the housing,
wherein ~~the first transducer is operably coupled to the first wheel producing a first~~
30 ~~signal and the second transducer is operably coupled to the second wheel producing a~~

second signal in response to rotation of the first and second wheels in response to movement of the housing.

20. The pointing device of claim 1, further comprising:

- 5 a rotatable disk mounted to the cable receiver; and
 a slot in the housing, wherein the rotatable disk protrudes through the slot.

21. The pointing device of claim 1, further comprising:

- 10 a spring attached to the spool for rotating the spool in a first direction causing the cable to wind onto the spool; and
 a latching mechanism mounted to the housing.

22. A pointing device capable of changing the appearance of a display,
comprising:

- 15 a housing having a cover and a base;
 a cable receiver rotatably mounted to the housing;
 a cable having a first end and a second end with the second end mounted to the cable receiver, where a majority of the cable is capable of being unwound from the cable receiver;

20 wherein the pointing device has a first mode with a first portion of the cable having a first length external to the pointing device and a second portion of the cable wound around the cable receiver, and a second mode with the first portion of the cable having a second length external to the pointing device less than the first length.

25 23. A pointing device capable of changing the appearance of a display,
comprising:

- a housing having a cover and a base;
 a cable receiver rotatably mounted to the housing;
 a cable having a first end and a second end with the second end mounted to the cable receiver, where the cable is essentially continuously wound in a first direction around the cable receiver,

wherein the pointing device has a first mode with a first portion of the cable having a first length external to the pointing device and a second portion of the cable wound around the spool; and a second mode with the first portion of the cable having a second length external to the pointing device less than the first length.

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24. A system, comprising:
a computer;
a display, and
a pointing device, wherein the pointing device is capable of changing the appearance of a display, the pointing device further comprising:
a housing having a cover and a base;
a single spool cable receiver rotatably mounted to the housing;
a cable having a first end and a second end with the second end mounted to the cable receiver,
wherein the pointing device has a first mode with a first portion of the cable having a first length external to the pointing device and a second portion of the cable wound around the cable receiver; and a second mode with the first portion of the cable having a second length external to the pointing device less than the first length.
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25. A system, comprising:
a computer;
a display, and
a pointing device, wherein the pointing device is capable of changing the appearance of a display, the pointing device further comprising:
a housing having a cover and a base;
a cable receiver movably coupled to the housing;
a cable having a first end and a second end with the second end mounted to the cable receiver;
a tracking device disposed within the housing;
a rotary connector coupling the cable to the tracking device,

wherein the pointing device has a first mode with a first portion of the cable having a first length external to the pointing device and a second portion of the cable wrapped around the cable receiver; and a second mode with the first portion of the cable having a second length external to the pointing device less than the first length.

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26. A system, comprising:

a computer;

a display, and

a pointing device, wherein the pointing device is capable of changing the appearance of a display, the pointing device further comprising:

a housing having a cover and a base;

a cable receiver movably coupled to the housing;

a cable having a first end and a second end with the second end mounted to the cable receiver;

15 a rotatable control circuit for producing position signals in response to movement of the housing mounted to the cable receiver; and

a tracking mechanism for generating signals in response to movement of the housing disposed in the housing,

wherein the pointing device has a first mode with a first portion of the

20 cable having a first length external to the pointing device and a second portion of the cable wrapped around the cable receiver; and a second mode with the first portion of the cable having a second length external to the pointing device less than the first length.

25 27. A method for storing a cable with a connector in a housing containing a cable receiver with a connector receiver and the connector coupled to a computer, comprising the steps of:

disconnecting the cable from a computer;

opening the lid;

30 rotating the rotatable disk to wind the cable around the cable receiver;

inserting the connector into the connector receiver; and
closing the lid.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein the winding step further comprises the step
5 of inserting a stylus into an aperture and rotating the rotatable disk to wind the cable
around the cable receiver.

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